

Deaf Culture Question of the Week – Oct 15-19, 2012
Bill Newell, Principal Washington School for the Deaf

Which of these Deaf artists was a friend of Charlie Chaplin?

- a) Douglas Tilden
- b) Granville Redmond
- c) Felix Kowalewski
- d) Theophilus Hope D'Estrella

Answer “b” – Granville Redmond

Granville Redmond was born in 1871 in Philadelphia, PA. At about 2 ½ he became deaf after contracting Scarlet Fever. It is uncertain why his family moved from Pennsylvania to California but this was fortunate for Granville because he was able to attend the California School for the Deaf (CSD) at Berkeley (now Fremont). It was at this school that he was inspired by another of our answer choices for this question Theophilus Hope D'Estrella who was his art teacher and is famous in his own right as a photographer. Theophilus inspired Granville to pursue his art career. In 1893 Granville won a scholarship from the CSD to study art in Paris. While in Paris studying art at the Académie Julian he was roommates with another one of our answer choices, famous Deaf sculptor Douglas Tilden.

Upon Granville's return to the U.S. he settled in the Los Angeles area where he met and became friends with Charlie Chaplin. Chaplin asked Redmond to help him develop his techniques of gesture and expression and became Granville's patron. Chaplin sponsored Granville by giving him a studio on the movie lot, collecting his paintings, and giving him silent acting roles in some of his films. Granville Redmond died May 24, 1935 in Los Angeles. [Cited from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Granville_Redmond]

See his artwork here: <http://www.granvilleredmond.com/>

Note that Deaf Culture Questions of the Week are archived at:
<http://www.wsd.wa.gov>